have to the provided in rural areas later on, and they promised to consider the matter. The Member said that the time had arrived for introducing Local Boards. He would suggest that there should be separate District Boards, Taluk Boards and Village Boards. The absence of such bodies was a serious disability at present He said also that the maintenance of village roads, lanes and water-sources' now under the Revenue department, the control over *poramboke* and waste lands, the improvement of agriculture on scientific and up-to-date lines, primary education, village sanitation and hygiene, and the working of the Village Panchayats, were some of the matters which the Boards could be safely entrusted with. If the Government approved of the above proposals, he said that he would submit a detailed scheme within a fixed time to regulate the working of the Boards.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

137. The need for concerting measures to direct commercial activities in Travancore.

Mr. T. V. Krishna Iyer (Member, Trading Classes, Nagercoil) said that over three crores of rupees' worth of articles were being annually exported from the State and a like quantity was also being imported. The Government were also spending large sums of money on the sea-ports, the benefit of which did not go to the people of the State. The people had a keen desire to attempt all industries in the State, but, for want of experience and advice, they were unable to move forward. He suggested that, if a Commercial Department was established in the State, it would prove of lasting good, in the same way as the Department of Agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

138. The necessity for allowing a permanent Member to represent the Gauda Saraswatha Brahmin s in the Assembly.

Mr. V. Kesavan Mallan (Member, Nominated) said that, in Travancore, there were over 12,000 Gauda Saraswatha Brahmins, who were living mostly in the Quilon and the Kottayam Divisions, and that they were very backward in education and civilization, and generally very poor also. They had very little chance of being elected as Members of the Assembly under the ordinary rules. He therefore requested that the community should be given the privilege of representation by a permanent Member. to be elected by the Members of the community under the presidentship of the Tahsildar of the Sherthalai taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

139. A plea for a special electorate for the Eazhavas, with a view to securing adequate representation of the community in the Assembly.

Mr. K. M. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) said that the Eazhavas formed one-sixth of the total population of Travancore, and that they had, if election was allowed by communities, a claim for electing 16 out of the 100 Members of the Assembly. But, since the institution of the Assembly, only one Eazhava had been elected as a Member by the taluk voters in one year. They had thus little or no chance of being adequately represented in the Assembly under the ordinary rules. In the taluk elections, only the influential men of the place usually got elected. The lists of voters were far from correct, as many eligible Eazhavas had been omitted. He requested that the Government should insist upon the voters' lists being made quite full and accurate. It was also necessary to enforce the attendance of *all* the voters at the election meetings.

It was on a consideration of the inadequate representation of the community under the election rules that the Government had reserved six seats in the Assembly for the Eazhavas, to be filled up by nomination. The community was very grateful to the Government for the privilege. But such nominations were generally made on the

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recommendations of the Dewan Peishkars, and there was no guarantee that the best men from the community would be proposed for nomination. The Eazhava Members were thus coming to the Assembly annually by a sort of special selection, which depended upon the good-will of the local officers and of the Government. In his view, it was necessary to place the representation of the Eazhavas on a more stable and constitutional basis, and, for that purpose, he requested that a special electorate should be created for the Eazhavas for electing Members to the Assembly annually. He thought that, in view of the present unequal competition which could not be denied, the other communities would not, in fairness, grudge the concession asked for by the Eazhavas.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

140. The evils to which the Malayala Brahmins in general were subjected on account of certain practices in vogue among them and suggestions for remedying them.

Mr. Devan Krishnaru (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) said that there were at present certain religious authorities common to the Malayala Brahmins, the Nayars and a few other communities. They were said to belong to six families with separate local jurisdiction. Formerly, the members of those families were well-versed in Sanskrit, the Sastras, the Vedas and other religious literature and were in every way competent to advise the members of any of the communities that sought their advice as to any *acharas*, and they also impartially prescribed the necessary observances, penalties and the like, according to the circumstances of each case. But it was regrettable that the above families had now fallen from their high standard, on account of lack of education and other causes. They nevertheless arrogated to themselves the powers of their forefathers and dictated the rites, penalties, &c., according to their whims and caprices and in blissful ignorance of what was ordained by the Sastras. It was no wonder if, under such circumstances, they pronounced conflicting decisions. Even between the several members of the same family, there was often divided opinion. It was therefore the more so between the authorities in the different families. He regretted to say that their decisions could easily be purchased for a small consideration. The hardships and evils to which the communities, whose religious authorities they were, suffered under such a state of affairs, were better imagined than described. The Government were also not unaware of the potentiality for evil of some of the authorities and the wrong way in which they used their so-called power. The recent Ulsavom troubles in the Chengannur Temple were the result of such a wrong use of power, and there was no limit to the number of suits, civil and criminal, which it had caused and was still causing. He said that it was very necessary that the Government should step in and protect the communities affected against the possibilities for evil caused by the vagaries of the few, who constituted themselves the accredited religious authorities of the communities. He suggested that the initiative and the ultimate disposal should not vest in the authorities. If, in any matter they thought that action in a particular way was needed, the religious authority concerned should move the matter to the local Tahsildar, who should then start an enquiry, obtain the opinion of the religious authority wherever necessary, and then pass a decision. As in other matters, an appeal might be provided from the decisions of the Tahsildar to the Division Peishkar, and finally to the Government. He prayed that some action on the lines indicated might be taken as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

141. Certain suggestions to improve the Public Service.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that his first point was the entertainment of foreigners in the Public Service in preference to the sons of the soil. The headships of departments, such as the Police, Engineering, Medical and Educational, should be thrown open to natives, as in Mysore and Baroda. It was gratifying that the Government recently made a wholesome departure, though temporarily, from the long-followed *mamool*, in filling up the vacancy of the Commissioner of Police during his absence on leave. The re-

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